

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5803

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PE

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S ROLE IN NAVY MINISTER

FAURA'S RESIGNATION

REF: LIMA 5272

1. A CIVILIAN OFFICIAL, CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS ON JULY 7 THAT THE DISMISSAL OF NAVY MINISTER FAURA ON JUNE 25 WAS APPROVED BY THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE COMMANDS. SOURCE SAID THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE NAVY PLOTTING TO OUST FAURA, BUT WHEN PRESENTED WITH NAVY DEMANDS FOR FAURA'S RESIGNATION BOTH HE AND THE AIR FORCE HIGH COMMAND (POSSIBLY INCLUDING GEN. GILARDI) APPROVED THE REMOVAL OF FAURA.

2. COMMENT: SOURCE'S COMMENTS AMPLIFY INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT OPPOSE FAURA'S REMOVAL. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, IN WHOM WE PLACE SUBSTANTIAL CREDENCE, THE PRIME MINISTER, WHILE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE NAVY, DID PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN REMOVING FAURA RATHER THAN MERELY ACQUIESCING TO THE NAVY'S DEMANDS. SOURCE ALSO COMMENTED THAT, IF THE NAVY HAD BEEN REBUFFED THIS TIME, THE GOP WOULD HAVE HAD TO CLOSE DOWN THE NAVAL SCHOOL AND, BY INFERENCE, THE NAVY SINCE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO DEMORALIZED TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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